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8 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
 9 **NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**  
 10 **SAN JOSE DIVISION**

12 PALOMA GAOS,  
 13 Plaintiff,  
 14 v.  
 15 GOOGLE INC.,  
 16 Defendant.

Case No. 5:10-cv-04809-EJD

**REPLY IN SUPPORT OF GOOGLE'S  
 MOTION TO DISMISS PLAINTIFF'S  
 FIRST AMENDED CLASS ACTION  
 COMPLAINT**

Hearing Date: Oct. 28, 2011  
 Time: 9:00 a.m.  
 Place: Courtroom 1, 5th Floor  
 Judge: Hon. Edward J. Davila

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1 **INTRODUCTION**

2 Plaintiffs' Opposition ignores her failure to plead facts showing that she was harmed or  
3 faces the imminent threat of harm by Google's alleged practices. Plaintiff cannot establish  
4 standing by speculating about the risk of future harm to others. This was the core point of the  
5 Court's prior dismissal order, and Plaintiff's Opposition once again fails to address it. She does  
6 not dispute that her alleged searches on Google Search were only for her name and names of her  
7 family, and her allegation is simply that Google's Referrer Headers passed that information on to  
8 the websites she visited from Google's search result list. She cannot bootstrap her allegation  
9 about that admittedly non-private information into a concrete injury in fact. Similarly, her SCA  
10 claim fails because she still does not address to the absence of non-conclusory factual allegations  
11 establishing any alleged violation towards her.

12 The Opposition also fails to defeat Google's arguments against Plaintiff's state-law  
13 claims. Her argument against preemption simply ignores the dispositive statutory language. She  
14 also fails to address Google's authorities with respect to her privacy, fraud, and unjust enrichment  
15 claims. And, as in the FAC, she fails to identify any "contractual promise" that Google allegedly  
16 breached.

17 Plaintiff seeks to divert attention by arguing that Google is estopped because of its  
18 response to a government subpoena five years ago. Not so. The discrete disclosure that Plaintiff  
19 alleged in this case is very different from the government demand for extensive and aggregated  
20 search data that was at issue in the *Gonzales* case. Nothing Google argued in *Gonzales* comes  
21 close to an admission that Plaintiff has standing to bring a civil SCA claim or that a user's privacy  
22 interests are infringed by the routine transmission of Referrer Header information to a particular  
23 website that the user selects. This basic aspect of web browsers was never at issue in the  
24 *Gonzales* motion. Plaintiff's discussion of *Gonzales* is a bright red herring.

25 Because she has not adequately addressed Google's arguments, Plaintiff's claims cannot  
26 survive, and this action should be dismissed in its entirety.

1 ARGUMENT

2 **I. PLAINTIFF HAS FAILED TO ALLEGE FACTS SUFFICIENT TO ESTABLISH**  
3 **STANDING UNDER ARTICLE III.**

4 In its previous dismissal order, the Court held that “Plaintiff’s conclusory allegations of  
5 disclosures of communications resulting in unspecified harm in violation of the ECPA, not  
6 supported by any facts, are insufficient to allege violation of Plaintiff’s statutory rights.” (4/7/11  
7 Order Granting Motion to Dismiss at 5, Docket No. 24.) In its motion to dismiss the FAC,  
8 Google argued that Plaintiff did not address this deficiency. Plaintiff’s Opposition does not do so  
9 either. Instead, it focuses largely on arguments Google did not raise. When Plaintiff does  
10 respond to Google’s actual arguments, she uses the same conclusory approach as the FAC itself.  
11 She cannot overcome the lack of sufficient factual allegations to establish standing here.

12 **A. PLAINTIFF FAILS TO ESTABLISH ACTUAL OR IMMINENT HARM TO**  
13 **HERSELF.**

14 Google’s motion established that the FAC alleged only speculative risk of some vague  
15 injury to anyone and no injury at all to Plaintiff herself. In her Opposition, Plaintiff concedes that  
16 Article III requires a plaintiff to have suffered injury in fact. (She identifies no actual injury that  
17 already has occurred. Thus, as her own authorities explain, Plaintiff must show a “*credible* threat  
18 of harm” sufficient to establish actual injury for standing purposes. *Cent. Delta Water Agency v.*  
19 *United States*, 306 F.3d 938, 950 (9th Cir. 2002) (emphasis added); *see also Krottner v. Starbucks*  
20 *Corp.*, 628 F.3d 1139, 1142 (9th Cir. 2010). But the Opposition does not explain how the FAC’s  
21 allegations establish that anyone, let alone Plaintiff, is “*immediately* in danger of sustaining some  
22 *direct* injury as the result of the challenged . . . conduct.” *Krottner*, 628 F.3d at 1142 (citing *Scott*  
23 *v. Pasadena Unified Sch. Dist.*, 306 F.3d 646, 656 (9th Cir. 2002)) (emphasis in original).

24 The actual facts alleged in the FAC (rather than the spin offered in the Opposition) differ  
25 greatly from the facts addressed in the authorities Plaintiff cites. (Opp. at 13.) The decision in  
26 *Doe 1 v. AOL, LLC*, for example, involved the public posting of aggregated search records of  
27 nearly 658,000 AOL members, “including their names, social security numbers, addresses,  
28 telephone numbers, credit card numbers, user names, passwords, and financial/bank account

1 information.” 719 F. Supp. 2d 1102, 1105 (N.D. Cal. 2010). The plaintiffs in that case further  
2 alleged that the data had actually been downloaded and reposted on multiple other websites.  
3 Under those factual allegations, the court held that plaintiffs faced a real and immediate threat of  
4 ongoing harm based on the continued dissemination of search queries. *Id.* at 1109. Likewise, in  
5 *Krottner*, the Ninth Circuit found that plaintiffs faced a “credible threat of real and immediate  
6 harm” where a laptop containing their unencrypted personal data—such as names, addresses, and  
7 social security numbers—had actually been stolen. 628 F.3d at 1143. The court in *Krottner*  
8 expressly stated, however, that “if no laptop had been stolen, and Plaintiffs had sued based on the  
9 risk that it would be stolen at some point in the future—we would find the threat far less  
10 credible.” *Id.*

11 That type of “far less credible” speculative risk is what Plaintiff alleges here. Both *Doe*  
12 and *Krottner* involved aggregated sets of personally-identifying information including names,  
13 addresses, and social security numbers that already had been publicly broadcast or stolen. In  
14 contrast, Plaintiff invokes the “Science of Reidentification” to hypothesize that some entity, using  
15 data aggregated from sources other than Google, might be able to de-anonymize user search  
16 queries. (FAC ¶¶ 60-75.) She never alleges that any entity actually has de-anonymized any  
17 Google user’s search queries, nor does even she allege that any entity actually has access to all of  
18 the data points necessary to de-anonymize user data. (*See id.*)

19 Even more fundamentally, Plaintiff does not establish that *she* personally suffered any risk  
20 of disclosure of sensitive personal information. That is the same essential deficiency that caused  
21 Judge Ware to dismiss the prior complaint. Plaintiff’s Opposition ignores that the FAC alleges  
22 only that she searched for her name or the names of family members. (*Id.* ¶ 77.) The factual  
23 allegations of the FAC do not support her argument that “she is at immediate and increased risk  
24 of direct injury.” (Opp. at 13:2-3.) The series of FAC paragraphs she cites in support of this  
25 assertion do not relate to *her* information. (*See* FAC ¶¶ 69-75.)

26 Because she identifies no allegations showing injury in fact to anyone—and in particular  
27 not to her—Plaintiff’s standing arguments fail with respect to all her state-law claims.  
28



1           **B. PLAINTIFF’S SCA STANDING ARGUMENTS ALSO FAIL.**

2           Plaintiff makes two additional standing arguments specific to her SCA claim. First, she  
3 argues that Google should be judicially estopped from denying an SCA violation. She cannot  
4 satisfy the requirements for judicial estoppel, however, based on what actually happened in the  
5 prior *Gonzales* case. Second, Plaintiff argues that standing exists where there is a violation of the  
6 SCA. But reciting that general proposition does not address the specific deficiencies identified in  
7 the Court’s prior dismissal order and in Google’s Motion.

8           **1. Plaintiff Overreaches In Her Attempt To Invoke Judicial Estoppel.**

9           Plaintiff argues that Google “should be judicially estopped from arguing that disclosure of  
10 search queries was not in violation of the ECPA”<sup>1</sup> based on arguments Google made over five  
11 years ago in *Gonzales v. Google*, Case No. 06-MC-8006-JW (N.D. Cal.). (Opp. at 10:15-11:2.)  
12 Her argument fails because it is premised on a misstatement of Google’s positions in *Gonzales*  
13 and in this motion. Nothing Google said in that case estops Google’s arguments here.

14           As Plaintiff notes, courts may invoke judicial estoppel to reject an argument after  
15 considering “(1) whether the party’s later position is clearly inconsistent with its earlier position;  
16 (2) whether the party has successfully advanced the earlier position, such that judicial acceptance  
17 of an inconsistent position in the later proceeding would create a perception that either the first or  
18 the second court had been misled; and (3) whether the party seeking to assert an inconsistent  
19 position would derive an unfair advantage or impose an unfair detriment on the opposing party if  
20 not estopped.” *Samson v. NAMA Holdings, LLC*, 637 F.3d 915, 935 (9th Cir. 2011). Another  
21 relevant consideration is “whether the party to be estopped acted inadvertently or with any degree  
22 of intent” to misrepresent to or commit fraud on the court. *Id.*

23           The facts at issue in *Gonzales* are quite distinct from this case. In *Gonzales*, Google  
24 opposed the federal government’s motion to compel production of 50,0000 URLs and 5,000  
25 search queries. 234 F.R.D. 674, 679 (N.D. Cal. 2006). Google made several arguments in  
26 support of its opposition, and Judge Ware recognized that Google “primarily argue[d] that the

27 \_\_\_\_\_  
28 <sup>1</sup> The SCA is part of the Electronic Communications Privacy Act (“ECPA”), 18 U.S.C. §§ 2510  
*et seq.*

1 information sought by the subpoena [was] not reasonably calculated to lead to evidence  
2 admissible in the underlying litigation, and that the production of information is unduly  
3 burdensome.” *Id.* at 680.

4 Google also argued that there was a “substantial question” as to whether the disclosure to  
5 the government of an aggregated sample of search queries invoked the procedures mandated by  
6 the ECPA. (*See* Nassiri Decl., Ex. 1, Docket No. 33, at 18:21-23.) Google argued that it “should  
7 not bear the burden and the risk of having to decide whether ECPA applies to this request.” (*Id.*  
8 at 19:9-11.) Thus, in *Gonzales*, Google focused on compelled disclosures of aggregated data to  
9 the government. Google did not address standing of a civil plaintiff who allegedly ran searches  
10 on her name and who claimed purely conjectural risk of future injury. Nor did Google express a  
11 position in *Gonzales* as to whether the SCA applies to the discrete, targeted disclosures of search  
12 terms in the Referrer Headers at issue in this case, or whether such disclosures would be  
13 objectionable or offensive to a reasonable person.<sup>2</sup> Thus, Google’s present SCA arguments are  
14 not “clearly inconsistent” with Google’s positions in *Gonzales*, as would be required to trigger  
15 judicial estoppel. Plaintiff likewise unnecessarily states that Google should be barred from  
16 arguing that an ECPA claim requires that “the disclosed information was personally identifiable,  
17 sensitive, or stolen for purposes of identity theft.” (*Cf.* Opp. at 10:17-19.) Google never made  
18 that argument in this case.

19 In addition, judicial estoppel is inapplicable because the requisite “judicial acceptance”  
20 element is not satisfied. In *Gonzales*, Judge Ware ultimately ordered Google to produce the URL  
21 data. 234 F.R.D. at 688. He denied the government’s request for search queries, but he did so  
22 based on Google’s “undue burden” argument. *Id.* at 686. The Court specifically “refrain[ed]  
23 from expressing an opinion on the applicability of the [ECPA].” *Id.* at 688.

24 Finally, numerous cases have addressed the SCA in the five years since *Gonzales*, so any  
25 arguments based on those later-decided cases could not, in any event, be inconsistent in an  
26 manner that triggers judicial estoppel.

27 \_\_\_\_\_  
28 <sup>2</sup> The fact that Google never made such an argument in *Gonzales* also defeats Plaintiff’s judicial  
estoppel argument with respect to her state-law privacy claim. (Opp. at 18:1-21.)

1                   2.     **Plaintiff’s Discussion Of The Merits Of The SCA Claim Fails To**  
2                                    **Address Her Own Claim.**

3             Plaintiff also argues that she established standing by alleging the invasion of legal rights  
4     created by statute—in this case, the SCA. (Opp. at 6:21-22.) Some courts have found standing  
5     where a plaintiff alleged a direct connection to the statutory violation or where that plaintiff used  
6     a service where *all* users were allegedly injured. *E.g., In re Facebook Privacy Litig.*, --- F. Supp.  
7     2d ----, 2011 WL 2039995, at \*4 (N.D. Cal. May 12, 2011). Plaintiff thus points to allegations in  
8     the FAC that she ran searches during the relevant time period as “correct[ing] the deficiency in  
9     her original complaint as identified by the Court.” (*Id.* at 6:8-9.)

10            Plaintiff’s attempted correction did not address all of the deficiencies identified by the  
11   Court. Specifically, the FAC did not address the Court’s concern that “conclusory allegations of  
12   disclosures of communications resulting in unspecified harm . . . not supported by any facts. . .  
13   are insufficient to allege violation of *Plaintiff’s* statutory rights.” (4/7/11 Order at 5 (emphasis  
14   added).) As discussed in Section I.B.1, above, Plaintiff’s FAC still lacks any factual allegations  
15   of any legally-cognizable harm or “distinct and palpable injury” to her. She does not even allege  
16   facts showing her own lack of knowledge and consent, nor do any facts she alleges compel a  
17   finding that such an absence of consent necessarily existed with respect to *every* user. Her  
18   conclusory allegations remain as unsupported by facts as when rejected in the Court’s prior order.

19   **II.     PLAINTIFF CANNOT AVOID THE CLEAR PREEMPTIVE LANGUAGE OF**  
20   **THE STORED COMMUNICATIONS ACT BY ARGUING ABOUT**  
21   **LEGISLATIVE HISTORY.**

22            Plaintiff’s Opposition ignores the SCA’s express language preempting state-law claims:  
23   “[t]he remedies and sanctions described in this chapter are the *only* judicial remedies and  
24   sanctions for nonconstitutional violations of this chapter.” 18 U.S.C. § 2708 (emphasis added).  
25   The FAC undeniably alleged violations of “this chapter”—that is, the SCA. Thus, under the  
26   express Congressional mandate in Section 2708, Plaintiff cannot seek other judicial remedies for  
27   those same acts. Plaintiff’s Opposition does not analyze (or even mention) the statutory  
28   language, instead arguing that the provision should be limited based on legislative history.  
Arguments about legislative history do not trump the plain language of a statute. The Ninth

1 Circuit recently rejected a similar attempt to rely on legislative history to interpret another  
2 provision of the SCA, holding that where the plain language of a statute is clear, the court “is  
3 therefore obligated to enforce the statute as written.” *Suzlon Energy Ltd. v. Microsoft Corp.*, ---  
4 F.3d ----, 2011 WL 4537843, at \*3 (9th Cir. Oct. 3, 2011).

5 Both of the cases cited by Google in its motion adhered to this principle and found express  
6 preemption based on the language of Section 2708. See *Quon v. Arch Wireless Operating Co.,*  
7 *Inc.*, 445 F. Supp. 2d 1116, 1138 (C.D. Cal. 2006)<sup>3</sup> (“Congress’s command in enacting section  
8 2708 is clear: Only those remedies outlined in the SCA are the ones, save for constitutional  
9 violations, that a party may seek for conduct prohibited by the SCA.”); *Bunnell v. Motion Picture*  
10 *Ass’n of Am.*, 567 F. Supp. 2d 1148, 1154 (C.D. Cal. 2007) (finding express preemption and  
11 citing to the statutory language).

12 Plaintiff cites several cases to support her contrary interpretation, but those decisions were  
13 decided before the Ninth Circuit’s decision in *Suzlon Energy*. See *In re Google Inc. Street View*  
14 *Elec. Commc’ns Litig.*, No. 10-md-02184, Order on MTD, at 22 (N.D. Cal. June 29, 2011)  
15 (nonetheless finding that field preemption barred state wiretap act claims); *In re Nat’l Security*  
16 *Agency Telecomms. Records Litig.*, 633 F. Supp. 2d 892, 905 (N.D. Cal. 2007) (finding lack of  
17 express preemption but only considering legislative history); *In re Nat’l Security Agency*  
18 *Telecomms. Records Litig.*, 483 F. Supp. 2d 934, 940 (N.D. Cal. 2007) (discussing complete  
19 preemption rather than express preemption).

20 This Court should apply the plain language of Section 2708, which states that the SCA  
21 provides the “only judicial remedies” for conduct underlying an alleged violation. All of  
22 Plaintiff’s state-law claims are therefore preempted.

### 23 **III. PLAINTIFF’S STATE CLAIMS REMAIN DEFICIENT.**

#### 24 **A. PLAINTIFF CANNOT SAVE HER STATE-LAW PRIVACY CLAIM.**

25 Plaintiff’s Opposition does not remedy her failure to allege facts establishing the three  
26 required elements of a claim for public disclosure of private facts: (1) a public disclosure, (2) of a

27 <sup>3</sup> *Quon* was reversed on other grounds by *Quon v. Arch Wireless Operating Co.*, 529 F.3d 892  
28 (9th Cir. 2008), which was itself reversed and remanded by *City of Ontario, Cal. v. Quon*, 130 S.  
Ct. 2619 (2010).

1 private fact, (3) which would be offensive and objectionable to the reasonable person. *Shulman v.*  
2 *Grp. W Prods., Inc.*, 18 Cal. 4th 200, 214 (1998). Accordingly, the Court should dismiss  
3 Plaintiff's claim for public disclosure of private facts.

4 Plaintiff does not dispute Google's showing that names of her and her family are not  
5 private facts. Plaintiff herself cites a case that holds this expressly. *Moreno v. Hanford Sentinel,*  
6 *Inc.*, 172 Cal. App. 4th 1125, 1130 (2009). (*See also* MTD at 13:22-14:2 (citing additional  
7 authorities).) She attempts to bootstrap that admittedly non-private fact into an ostensibly private  
8 one by stating that "the fact that the Plaintiff searched for it (and the particular search terms she  
9 used) is private." (Opp. at 17:2-3.) However, the FAC does not and cannot allege that Google  
10 discloses users' identities along with their searches, let alone a user's relationship to any name  
11 that is searched. Plaintiff attempts to bridge this gap by alleging that her search information could  
12 be exposed to a third party who later identifies her through the so-called "Science of  
13 Reidentification." But that does not change the non-private nature of her name or the fact that  
14 Google did not disclose any arguably private fact about her (i.e., that *Plaintiff* ran a search).  
15 Moreover, as she herself alleges, de-anonymization techniques require the use of publicly  
16 available "outside information." (FAC ¶¶ 61-64.) As *Moreno* makes clear, identification that is  
17 obtained from a public source is not private. *See* 172 Cal. App. 4th at 1130 (finding plaintiff's  
18 identity public, because it was likely ascertained from her MySpace page). For these reasons,  
19 Plaintiff fails to establish any "private fact" that was disclosed, Plaintiff's claim fails.

20 An independent ground for dismissal of this claim is Plaintiff's inability to establish that  
21 Google's alleged disclosure of her name search would be offensive and objectionable to a  
22 reasonable person. She simply alleges that that *she* did not want them disclosed, which is  
23 different. The objective "reasonable person" test finds "offensive and objectionable" the  
24 disclosure of intimate details "beyond the limits of decency" that would cause mental suffering,  
25 shame, or humiliation if disclosed. *E.g. Daly v. Viacom, Inc.*, 238 F. Supp. 2d 1118, 1125 (N.D.  
26 Cal. 2002). (*See also* MTD at 14:26-15:4 (citing other authorities).) Plaintiff does not even try to  
27 meet this standard with respect to her alleged search of her name and family members' names.  
28 She again seeks to divert attention from the relevant inquiry by arguing that other users' search

1 queries may contain sufficiently sensitive material. (Opp. at 17:24-26.) But she never alleged—  
2 even after being given the opportunity to amend her complaint—that she conducted a search for  
3 medical issues, sexual issues, or other topics mentioned in the Opposition. (*Compare id.* at  
4 17:25-26 with FAC ¶ 3.)

5 Finally, Plaintiff does not dispute that disclosure to “one individual or a few” does not  
6 satisfy the “public disclosure” prong. *Schwartz v. Thiele*, 242 Cal. App. 2d 799, 805 (1966).  
7 Instead, she argues that the prong is satisfied because “Google disclosed her search queries to  
8 numerous third parties.” (Opp. at 17:17-18.) That argument is inconsistent with the FAC’s  
9 factual allegation that each individual query is disclosed to just the owner of the website that the  
10 user selects from Google’s results page. (FAC ¶ 40.) Plaintiff’s Opposition does not address  
11 Google’s showing that such a disclosure is not “public” under relevant law. (MTD at 14:4-16.)  
12 This provides yet another basis to dismiss Plaintiff’s claim.

13 **B. PLAINTIFF’S BREACH OF CONTRACT CLAIM FAILS AS A MATTER**  
14 **OF LAW.**

15 **1. Plaintiff Has Not Alleged Facts Sufficient To Establish That The**  
16 **Privacy Policy Is A Valid Contract.**

17 Plaintiff’s Opposition provides little argument supporting her allegation that Google’s  
18 Privacy Policy itself constitutes a valid contract. (*See* FAC ¶ 129 (alleging that the Policy  
19 constitutes the breached agreement).) She argues that she gave “consideration” for Google’s free  
20 service by transmitting information to Google, but that argument founders because the Policy  
21 does not obligate her to provide any such information. In addition, Plaintiff does not refute the  
22 authorities cited by Google holding that a statement of policy, standing alone, is insufficient to  
23 support a contract claim. (*E.g.*, MTD at 15.) One of Plaintiff’s own authorities makes the same  
24 point. *Smith v. Trusted Universal Standards in Elec. Transactions, Inc.*, No. 09-4567, 2010 WL  
25 1799456, at \*10 (D.N.J. May 4, 2010) (finding that plaintiff failed to demonstrate that Cisco and  
26 Microsoft’s privacy policies formed contracts because plaintiff “failed to allege what offer was  
27 made that he accepted and what consideration was given”).

28 Plaintiff alternatively argues that she could amend to allege that the operative contract is  
really the Terms of Service. (Opp. at 19 n. 12.) That is not the current allegation, to which the

1 motion is directed. Google will address problems with Plaintiff's potential new allegations if and  
2 when Plaintiff is given leave to amend.

3 **2. Plaintiff Does Not Adequately Allege The Elements Of Breach and**  
4 **Damage.**

5 Even assuming that the Privacy Policy does form a contract, Plaintiff's Opposition fails to  
6 identify a breach of any specific terms. In an attempt to show that she alleged a breach, Plaintiff  
7 cites a block of 18 paragraphs in the FAC, none of which refer to the Privacy Policy at all. (*See*  
8 *Opp.* at 20:17-20 (citing FAC ¶¶ 39-57).) Plaintiff's failure to identify any provisions of the  
9 Privacy Policy that Google allegedly breached is fatal to her breach of contract claim. *See Mulato*  
10 *v. WMC Mortg. Corp.*, No. 09-03443-CW, 2010 WL 1532276, at \*3 (N.D. Cal. Apr. 16, 2010)  
11 (dismissing contract claim where plaintiff failed to identify which provisions of the contract were  
12 breached); *Winter v. Chevy Chase Bank*, No. C-09-3187-SI, 2009 WL 3517619, at \*3 (N.D. Cal.  
13 Oct. 26, 2009) (same).

14 In addition, Plaintiff's own authorities reject the notion that disclosure of information  
15 contrary to a privacy policy can constitute contract damages. *See, e.g., In re JetBlue Airways*  
16 *Privacy Litig.*, 379 F. Supp. 2d 299, 327 (E.D.N.Y. 2005) (finding no contractual damages based  
17 on allegations of disclosure of customer data, including names, addresses, phone numbers, and  
18 travel itineraries); *In re Am. Airlines Privacy Litig.*, 370 F. Supp. 2d 552, 567 (N.D. Tex. 2005)  
19 (same). Courts in this District have reached conclusions of no damages in similar circumstances.  
20 (MTD at 16:7-21 (citing *In re Facebook*, 2011 WL 2039995, at \*9, and *Ruiz v. Gap, Inc.*, 622 F.  
21 Supp. 2d 908, 917-18 (N.D. Cal. 2009).)

22 **C. PLAINTIFF'S FRAUD-BASED CLAIMS AND NEGLIGENT**  
23 **MISREPRESENTATION CLAIM REMAIN DEFICIENT.**

24 **1. Plaintiff's Opposition Fails To Identify Facts That Satisfy Rule 9(b).**

25 Plaintiff's Opposition fails to address the central Rule 9(b) deficiency identified in  
26 Google's Motion to Dismiss: she does not identify a single representation that *she* allegedly read,  
27 viewed, or actually or justifiably relied on, before using Google Search. This Court has dismissed  
28 fraud on the basis of Rule 9(b) for just such a failure. *McKinney v. Google, Inc.*, No. 10-cv-

1 01177-EJD (PSG), 2011 WL 3862120, at \*5 (N.D. Cal. Aug. 30, 2011) (Davila, J.); *accord*  
2 *Nabors v. Google, Inc.*, No. 10-cv-03897-EJD (PSG), 2011 WL 3861893, at \*5 (N.D. Cal. Aug.  
3 30, 2011) (Davila, J.).

4 **2. Plaintiff's Common-Law Misrepresentation Claims Also Fail For**  
5 **Other Reasons.**

6 Plaintiff also fails to establish how she meets several key elements of her common-law  
7 fraudulent and negligent misrepresentation claims.

8 First, her Opposition underscores her failure to establish any misrepresentation. Plaintiff  
9 asserts, in a conclusory fashion, that “[t]he First Amended Complaint contains detailed  
10 allegations of Google’s misrepresentations.” (Opp. at 22:7-8.) This assertion ignores Google’s  
11 showing that the alleged misrepresentations are not supported by a reading of the Policy itself.  
12 (MTD at 18:14-25.) And Plaintiff is simply wrong in attacking as “blatantly untrue” Google’s  
13 accurate statement that the Privacy FAQ discloses that the URL of the search results page  
14 contains the search query. (Opp. at 2 n.2.) Under the heading “Server logs,” Google’s Privacy  
15 FAQ states, in the context of a user search, that “http://www.google.com/search?q=cars is the  
16 *requested URL, including the search query.*” (Niehaus Decl., Ex. 2, Docket No. 30-2 at 5  
17 (emphasis added).)

18 Second, her conclusory allegation of reliance (FAC ¶ 109) also is insufficient. As this  
19 Court has stated, “the mere assertion of ‘reliance’ is insufficient. The plaintiff must allege the  
20 specifics of his or her reliance on the misrepresentation to show a bona fide claim of actual  
21 reliance.” *McKinney*, 2011 WL 3862120, at \*5. Other decisions likewise have dismissed claims  
22 for both fraud and negligent misrepresentation where plaintiffs failed to allege facts  
23 demonstrating actual reliance. *E.g.*, *Nabors*, 2011 WL 3861893, at \*5; *In re Software Toolworks,*  
24 *Inc. Sec. Litig.*, No. C-90-2906-FMS, 1991 WL 319033, at \*6 (N.D. Cal. Jun. 17, 1991) (“Absent  
25 a detailed factual allegation of how and when a specific plaintiff relied on a specific false  
26 statement . . . no claim for fraud [or] negligent misrepresentation . . . is stated under California  
27 law.”).

28 Third, as discussed above, Plaintiff makes no attempt to explain how the alleged



1 disclosure of her name—the only disclosure she alleges as to herself—actually caused her  
2 damage. In addressing this element of her fraud-based claims, she attempts to hide her lack of  
3 damages by referring to general allegations in the FAC that “Plaintiff and the Class have suffered  
4 harm” as a result of “the disclosure of their sensitive personal information.” (Opp. at 22:13-16;  
5 *see also* FAC ¶¶ 110, 116.) Nothing is sensitive about Plaintiff’s name, however, and she has no  
6 damage. Moreover, case law in this District makes clear that even disclosure of personal  
7 information, standing alone, is not “appreciable harm” sufficient to support any theory of  
8 damages. *Ruiz*, 622 F. Supp. 2d at 913-14; *see also In re iPhone Application Litig.*, No. 11-MD-  
9 02250-LHK, Order Granting Motions to Dismiss, Docket No. 8, at 7 (N.D. Cal. Sept. 20, 2011).  
10 Plaintiff provides no authority to overcome this principle.

11 **3. Plaintiff’s Claim Under Cal. Civ. Code § 1572 Fails.**

12 Plaintiff’s claim under Civil Code § 1572 must be dismissed because, as discussed above,  
13 she does not allege any false representation, reliance, or resulting damage. *See Warren v. Merrill*,  
14 143 Cal. App. 4th 96, 110 (2006). Additionally, Plaintiff concedes that her claim under § 1572  
15 fails in the absence of a valid contract. (Opp. at 23:20-22.) Thus, her failure to establish that she  
16 entered into a contract with Google, as discussed in Section III.B.1, above, provides an additional  
17 basis for dismissing her § 1572 claim.

18 **4. Plaintiff Does Not Oppose Google’s Motion Against Her Claim Under**  
19 **Cal. Civ. Code § 1573, Which Therefore Fails.**

20 In its opening brief, Google showed that Plaintiff had not stated a claim for constructive  
21 fraud under Civil Code § 1573. She does not even mention the claim in her Opposition, and  
22 thereby concedes Google’s dismissal arguments.

23 **D. PLAINTIFF CANNOT STATE A CLAIM FOR UNJUST ENRICHMENT.**

24 Plaintiff entirely fails to address the recent California decisions cited by Google that  
25 expressly hold that California law does not recognize a claim for unjust enrichment. *Jogani v.*  
26 *Superior Court*, 165 Cal. App. 4th 901, 911 (2008) (“[U]njust enrichment is not a cause of  
27 action.”); *McKell v. Wash. Mut., Inc.*, 142 Cal. App. 4th 1457, 1490 (2006) (same); *Melchior v.*  
28 *New Line Prods., Inc.*, 106 Cal. App. 4th 779, 793 (2003) (same). Instead, Plaintiff cites federal

1 cases that predate *Jogani* to argue that such a cause of action is viable. (Opp. at 23-24.) Those  
2 holdings do not trump California law or the many recent cases decided by this Court recognizing  
3 that unjust enrichment is not a separate cause of action. *E.g.*, *Nabors*, 2011 WL 3861893, at \*8;  
4 *McKinney*, 2011 WL 3862120, at \*8; *Romero v. Mortgage Co.*, No. 10-cv-05833-EJD, 2011 WL  
5 2560252, at \*3 (N.D. Cal. June 28, 2011). And the older California cases cited by Plaintiff show  
6 that unjust enrichment is a remedy, not a separate cause of action. *Ward v. Taggart*, 51 Cal. 2d  
7 736, 741-42 (1959) (discussing plaintiff’s theory of recovery); *State of Cal. v. Levi Strauss & Co.*,  
8 41 Cal. 3d 460 (1986) (same); *Peterson v. Cellco P’ship*, 164 Cal. App. 4th 1583 (2008)  
9 (sustaining demurrer to unjust enrichment claim where no other cause of action was viable); *but*  
10 *see Hirsch v. Bank of Am.*, 107 Cal. App. 4th 708 (2003) (allowing an unjust enrichment claim  
11 where plaintiff sought monetary restitution).

12 Even if the Court were to find, against the great weight of California law, that such a  
13 cause of action exists, Plaintiff has failed to allege facts showing a benefit conferred on Google at  
14 Plaintiff’s expense. As Plaintiff’s own authority explains, this is a necessary requirement to seek  
15 unjust enrichment even as a remedy. *Peterson*, 164 Cal. App. 4th at 1593-94 (noting that another  
16 case cited by Plaintiff that discussed unjust enrichment solely as a measure of damages—*County*  
17 *of San Bernardino v. Walsh*, 158 Cal. App. 4th 553 (2007)—“does not support plaintiffs’  
18 assertion they need not allege any actual injury to bring an unjust enrichment claim”). Plaintiff  
19 has failed to put forth any facts that support that she lost money as a result of Google’s alleged  
20 enrichment.

21 For these reasons, Plaintiff’s unjust enrichment claim fails as a matter of law.

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**CONCLUSION**

Despite being given an opportunity to amend her original complaint, Plaintiff's FAC still fails in the FAC to establish either that she has standing or that she has stated any claim upon which relief can be granted. Plaintiff's Opposition does not fix those shortcomings. Therefore, for all the reasons outlined in Google's Motion to Dismiss and above, this Court should dismiss all of Plaintiff's claims.

Dated: October 14, 2011

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